

## **ver·ti·cal**

**ver·ti·cal** (vûr'tîkôl) *adjective*

*Abbr.* *vert.*

1. Being or situated at right angles to the horizon; upright.
2. Situated at the vertex or highest point; directly overhead.
3. *Anatomy.* Of or relating to the vertex of the head.
4. *Economics.* Relating to or involving all stages from production to sale: *vertical integration*.
5. Relating to or composed of elements at different levels, as of society.

*noun*

1. Something vertical, as a line, plane, or circle.
2. A vertical position.

[Late Latin *vertic lis*, overhead, from Latin *vertex*, *vertic-*, highest point. See *vertex*.]

— **ver·ti·cal·i·ty** (-kîl'ë-të) or **ver·ti·cal·ness** (-kîl'nës) *noun*

— **ver·ti·cal·ly** *adverb*

**Synonyms:** *vertical, upright, perpendicular, plumb.* These adjectives are compared as they mean being at or approximately at right angles to the horizon or to level ground. *Vertical* and especially *upright* are often used to signify contrast with what is horizontal; the terms do not always imply an exact right angle: *wallpaper with vertical stripes; an upright column.* *Perpendicular* and *plumb* are generally used to specify an angle of precisely 90 degrees: *a perpendicular escarpment; careful to make the doorjambs plumb.*

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